**Ideas from principals about how Graduation Matters can help them in the schools**

* Could community organizers plant somebody in our school to help connect parents to resources
* Set up the resources systematically
* District-wide connection person
* Kids feel pushed out … how do we stay connected with all kids
* Schedules are tied to busses/transportation changes
* Flagship money
* After school/before school programs
* Parent after school program e.g. Rattlesnake parent co-op
* Involvement in a community foundation … How do we invest our money? Save 10% of all donations.
* What is currently going on in schools? Attendance? Share information about school programs across the district.
* Graduation Matters Missoula should be a preK-12 initiative. Attendance in K-5 is an issue. Engagement of students is important.
* Money for training materials for teachers. (Reading/writing training is very expensive)
* Paid internships for high school juniors/seniors in their core interest
* Establish a system that works in the home to help tier 3 kids with chronic attendance/academic issues.
* Kid-to-kid mentors
* Parents supporting parents
* When the spiral down starts … punitive actions were taken. Create supportive environments.
* Rally support for compulsory attendance until 18 years old.
* Missoula Heroes … who are these kids, what are their stories?
* Schedule flexibility in high school. Need money to provide personnel to assist with credit recovery.
* Find a new way to meet the needs of struggling high school students. (7 periods a day). Help kids catch up.
* Just repeating the same thing (Biology I) doesn’t help the students who are struggling.
* Look at the start of the day. Change start time.
  + Staff A: 7:30 to 3:30
  + Staff B: 9 to 5
  + Staff C: Noon to 8
* Money for interventions.
* Middle of the road kids … Reinforce the work they do with may encourage them to help.
* Parents saying, “What do I do?” They don’t have a resource or support system.
* Missoula has many programs … but parents don’t know how to access programs.
* The meth campaign has been effective. What about an attendance awareness campaign?
* Systemic things that we do … “tool box” of interventions.
* Bus transportation for getting kids home if they stay later to catch up.
* Make-up work when students are out. Is there a way to assist parents with their responsibility?
* Community support for programs at noon, before school, and after school. Academic follow through that can’t be done at home.
* Training for home visits. Money for program.
* Social norming.
* Dori Brownlow has a project that helps families … increase this effort.
* Volunteers to help connect with families.
* Kids being in school is important. Put some “teeth” in the truancy law at an earlier age.
  + Community team? Neighborhood watch?
* Funding for FRC’s in all schools. Find a way to keep the Family Connections Center.
* Create connections between high school, middle school and elementary.
* Make the attendance issue a public “awareness” for our community.
* Collect data to demonstrate the attendance issue … follow with interventions.

Initiatives in particular to readdress:

* Credit recovery programs in the high schools
* District-wide free or reduced after school programs
* Flexibility in transportation of students to allow extra time
* Funding for training materials
* Creating different schedules for the school day
* Peer-to-peer mentoring for teachers and students